काम करा पाती है तो इस में भारत सरकार क्या करेगी सभापति महोदय, हम ने तो 30 किलो की जगह 35 किलो किया है। ...(व्यवधान)...

* 325. [The Questioner (Shri Vijay Singh Yadav) was absent. For answer *vide* page 34 *infra.]*

Mr. Chairman: Question No. 326.

Boundary Dispute with Myanmar

*326. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any boundary dispute exists between Myanmar and India;

(b) if so, what efforts have been made to settle the dispute in a friendly and peaceful way; and

(c) the steps taken to further improve and strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Sir, a Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Boundary dispute with Myanmar

1. Under the boundary agreement of 1967, a Joint Boundary Commission was constituted for demarcating the India-Myanmar boundary. Out of 1643 kms. of the India-Myanmar boundary, demarcation of 1472 kms. has been completed. 136 kms. in the Lohit sub-sector of Arunachal Pradesh and 35 kms. in the Kabaw valley of Manipur sector remains undemarcated. Although the undemarcated sectors are not an issue in bilateral relations, discussions in this regard are held in the institutional mechanisms for boundary-related issues.

2. It was also agreed in the Joint Boundary Commission by the two Governments to maintain all boundary pillars and to move forward with joint inspection, repair and restoration of pillars. The first meeting between the Heads of Survey Deparments of India and Myanmar was held in Yangon in September 1993.

3. At the meeting of Heads of Survey Departments held in New Delhi in October 2002, the work plan for the field seasons 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 was finalised. A Director level meeting of the Survey Departments was held at Tamu-Moreh in December 2002. The work on joint inspection has progressed smoothly.

4. Our relations with Myanmar reflect our common desire to cooperate with each other to promote peace and tranquillity along the border, achieve sustained economic development in both our countries and to foster people-to-people interaction. To this end, our effort has been to strengthen the friendly relations through high-level dialogue and increased economic interaction through collaborative projects. There are institutional mechanisms for maintaining regular dialogue on issues of mutual concern which meet from time to time.

SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the statement, 136 Kms. in the Lohit sector of Arunachal Pradesh and 35 Kms. in the Kabaw valley of Manipur sector remain undemarcated. I would like to know how this happened. Was it that this area was never demarcated? Or, though the demarcation was done, the boundary stones or boundary pillars, etc. were damaged, or, removed? How soon will this be demarcated?

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, a boundary agreement was signed between India and Myanmar in March, 1967. Under this agreement, a Joint Boundary Commission, composed of officials representing the two countries was constituted and charged with the task of planning and carrying out demarcation of the Indo-Myanmar boundary.

Sir, the hon. Member is talking about 136 Kms. in the Lohit sub-sector of Arunachal Pradesh and 36 Kms. in Kabaw valley sector of Manipur. The demarcation in the Lohit Sector has not been undertaken due to the reluctance of Myanmar to associate itself with the Sino Indian border, which has been mentioned in the statement. The demarcation of the boundary in Arunachal sector has not been discussed after March, 1976. This is because the boundary begins from the trijunction of India, China and Myanmar; and Myanmar desires to have a tripartite meeting organisation.

In the Kabaw valley sector, the demarcation is yet to be finalised in the following segments. It is only in the following segments, which is the Tuwang-Molcham area, which is between border pillars 64 and 68. All this information is given in the statement. The other, Sir, is the Molcham village in the Kabaw valley of Manipur. 2.84 Kms. Length of boundary remains to be demarcated. Differences over the demarcation of the boundary in the Kabaw valley were actually resolved by the technical-level agreement of October 27, 1980, according to which, an adjustment of 1.43 square miles of area in favour of the Burmese was to be made by India in the new Bongmal Tuwang sector. In return, the Burmese were to accept the ground position of pillars and were in to accommodate IIndia in Moreh area, by way of shifting the boundary pillars 77, fixed earlier by 250 yards eastwards towards Burmese side. The above agreement could not be implemented due to opposition from the Manipur Government.

SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: How soon would this demarcation be completed?

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, there is no dispute with the Government of India; but Manipur continues to have reservations about the above package deal offered by the Government of Myanmar. Since then, three alternative proposals, or so, of the Government of India have been forwarded to the Manipur Government for its consideration, but the Manipur Government has not, so far, responded.

SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Sir, I live in the border area. My place is hardly 0 Kms. away from the border. We definitely want peace and tranquillity along the border areas. Is not the movement of insurgent outfits, insurgents along with the trafficking of drugs by anti-social elements is the real setback in maintaining this peace and tranquillity? In the discussion with the Myanmar Government, I would like to know, whether any specific decision was taken in this regard. If so, how are you going to implement that? What are the decisions, if any?

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, our relations with Myanmar reflect the common desire to co-operate with each other to promote peace and tranquillity along the border to achieve the sustained economic development in both the countries and to foster people-to-people interaction. The hon. Member has expressed his concern about the illegal trade that is taking place there. For this, the reply that I would like to

submit is, Tamu Myanmar— Moreh (Manipur) is the only designated border trading point between India and Myanmar which is currently operationalised. The other agreed trading point—Champai—Rih—is yet to be since, Champai is farther away from the border, it has been decided to operationalise LCS at Zokhawthar. The LCS and Champai will be notified and staff would be posted at Zokhawthar. A number of measures have been taken to address illegal trade in areas of infrastructure and contruction of weigh bridge; a modern warehouse has been completed, security is being provided by a Battalion of Assam Rifles and a decision on a larger currency chest for Union Bank of India has been taken by the RBI.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any discrepancy in alignment of the McMohan Line in the Fish Tail area of Lohit Sector of Arunachal Pradesh. The discrepancy being between its alignment by geographical and satellite survey. If the hon. Minister so desire, this can be communicated to me confidentially.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, there are many issues relating to McMohan Line which are under discussion. And, as the House is aware, many of these are confidential in nature. General Roy Chowdhury, from his previous experience, would be aware of most of it. But, on this issue, I seek your protection.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से एक बात कहना चाहता हूं, यह जो तमू-मोरे की बैठक हुई दिसंबर, 2002 में, उसके ठीक पहले हम लोग एक कमेटी के सिलसिले में वहां पर थे। उस समय वहां मोरे क्षेत्र के कई लोग आकर हमसे मिले, कमेटी से मिले और बातचीत की। एक तो यह स्पष्ट है कि आठ-नौ साल तक दोनों सरकारों के बीच मोरे बैठक नहीं हुई हो आप खुद भी मान रहे हैं और आपका उत्तर है। अब यह दो सरकारों के बीच सीमा पर बातचीत होने से आठ से नौ साल का फासला है। उधर वहां 35 किलोमीटर सीमा का सीमांकन न होने से म्यांमार सरकार, म्यांमार देश ने करीब करीब 12 से 13 किलोमीटर मोरे की सीमा को भारत की सीमा से सटा दिया है। उन लोगों की यह शिकायत थी कि सारा बाजार उठकर के यहां आ गया है, भारत की सीमा से सटा हुआ, मणिपुर की सीमा से लगा हुआ। तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में क्या आप अगली बैठक में म्यांमार सरकार से बातचीत करके कोई रास्ता निकालेंगे, कोई सीमांकन होगा और वहां से होने वाले अवैध व्यापार पर रोक लगाने के लिए आप कोई न कोई कदम उठाएंगे अगर यह नौ-नौ वर्ष तक बैठक नहीं होगी तो, माननीय सभापति महोदय, दिक्कत हो जाएगी।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, म्यांमार के विदेश मंत्री मेरे आमंत्रण पर अभी भारत आए थे, और कई वर्षों के बाद, आठ-नौ वर्षों के बाद यह एक अवसर आया, जब म्यांमार के विदेश मंत्री भारत की यात्रा पर आए। हम लोगों की बातचीत बहुत अच्छी हुई। उसमें हमने बोर्डर के सवाल पर भी विचार किया, इल्लीगल ट्रेड के सवाल पर भी विचार किया, इनसर्जेंस ग्रुप जो आपरेट कर रहे हैं दोनों तरफ से, उसके उपर भी विचार किया मैं माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहूंगा कि इस तरह हमारे संबंधों में सुधार हो रहा है, गहराई आ रही है, मित्रता बढ़ रही है। हम इन सब मामलों पर बहुत तेजी से संयुक्त कार्रवाई कर रहे है। और जब हमारी बैठक विदेश मंत्री, म्यांमार के साथ हुई थी तो उसमें जो सीमा का प्रश्न है, जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा, जैसे ट्रेड का है, स्मगलिंग का है, रोजमर्रा की घटनाओं का है, उन सबके बारे में उन्होंने एक चार स्टेज फार्मूला सजेस्ट किया जैसे ज्वाइंट बाउंड्री कमिशन, पहले से बना हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि स्थानीय स्तर पर भी सम्पर्क हो, उसके उपर के स्तर पर सम्पर्क हो, ज्वाइंट बाउंड्री कमिशन में हो और फिर कुछ मामला हो तो विदेश मंत्रियों के स्तर पर उस पर बातचीत हो जाए। यह उन्होंने विचार रखा है और उसके अंतर्गत हम भारत सरकार में उस पर विचार कर रहे हैं और आगे कैसे इसको सुविचारित ढंग से किया जाए, इस पर हम कार्रवाई करेंगे। लेकिन मैं इतना बताना चाहता हूं कि म्यांमार की भारत के साथ जो सीमा है, उस पर डीमारकेशन न होने से आपस में कोई मतभेद नहीं है, कोई कन्फलिक्ट सिचुएशन नहीं है, ऐसा मानकर नहीं चलना चाहिए। दोनों देशों के बीच में मित्रता है और हम बार्डर को सही ढंग से मैनेज कर रहे हैं।

Widening of NHs in Uttar Pradesh

*327 SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sections of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh where work for widening is presently going on;

(b) by when the work on these sections is likely to be completed, section-wise; and

(c) the sections o the National Highways in the State where similar work is proposed to be taken up next?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.